Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0006 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0006]   Developers also require ways to query XML sources for instances that conform to various schemas. One of the first tools that could be used to ~~quesry~~ query these XML data sources was called XML Path Language (XPath). XPath was designed to allow navigation within an XML file by forming simple queries of a single file. Since XPath was designed to navigate and query a single XML data source, using XPath effectively to query multiple data sources requires the developer to perform complex XML document merges using XSLT 1.0 or custom programs. The XPath approach is similar to how some companies create data warehouses today—data from multiple sources is pulled together and transformed into an identical format in a central warehouse repository. Managers can then use that repository's tools to query the data.

Please replace paragraph 0048 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0048]   In light of the background explanations provided above regarding XML and XML schemas, instances, and namespaces, embodiments and application of the present invention are now described. XML Schema Collections in accordance with the invention provide container(s) for XML schema namespaces and the associated implements that make use of the XML Schema Collections possible. The context for the use of this invention and the advantages of the present invention over the prior art are further described below. The relational database supplies a ready context for use of XML Schema Collections. This setting is an embodiment of the invention, i.e., those skilled in the art will appreciate the existence of other contexts in which practice of the invention would be beneficial and advantageous.[[.]] More particularly, the XML Schema Collections can be used in any setting where XML instances conforming to one or more schema are to be typed or validated according to the appropriate schema.

Please replace paragraph 0056 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0056]   Upon creation of Object 1 1502 (the XML Schema Collection Object) Software 1510 may (automatically or upon user instructions) instruct the Server Object to

"type" the Storage Area 1520, or a portion thereof, with Object 1 1502. In conjunction with a validation process that enforces the schemas specified by Object 1 1502, the result is that XML instances that conform to one or more schemas specified by Object 1 1502 can be stored in the designated portion of the Storage Area 1520.[[.]] As described above, an XML Schema Collection Object is a collection of XML schema namespaces. Object 1 1502 in this embodiment thus allows XML instances that are "validated" against the schemas represented by the XML schema namespaces in the XML Schema Collection Object (i.e., Object 1 1502). Therefore, if Object 2 1504 conforms to one of the schemas represented by the XML Schema Collection, it can be stored into the designated portion of Storage Area 1520.

Please replace the ABSTRACT with the following replacement ABSTRACT:

The present invention provides "XML Schema Collections" and methods and systems for using the same. XML data is typically stored as an XML instance, each of which should conform to a "schema" according to a desired goal. An XML schema provides identification and organization for the data supplied by an XML instance. XML Schema Collections are collections of one or more XML schema namespaces. An̶ A storage location designated for storage of XML data, such as an XML column in a relational database, can be "typed" with an XML Schema Collection object, allowing that storage location to store XML instances that conform to more than one XML schema. XML Schema Collections provide increased data storage versatility, and facilitation of data searches.